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Community News

Post Office Relocation Discussed

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Carbondale — Carbondale residents opposed to relocation of the city's main post office from North Main Street to a new building on Dundaff Street may find little satisfaction with the fact that the post office is moving. But they may find some consolation in the fact that a postal substation may be located on Main Street.

The U.S. Postal Service will award a contract later this month to construct the new Dundaff Street facility and while it has been known for about seven years that the day was coming when a new post office would be built, some residents in recent week have been voicing concern not only about the move but also the fate of the present post office building.

About 75 Carbondale residents gathered at a public meeting sponsored by Carbondale Historical Society at Bethesda Baptist Church last week to air those concerns.

Among the ideas coming out of that hearing were the possibilities of utilizing the existing post office for a municipal building and converting the existing city hall into a museum.

Guest speakers were councilwoman Charlotte Moro and Postmaster Gerald Barrett. It was at that hearing that Mrs. Moro revealed that postal authorities had promised at a Carbondale Chamber of Commerce meeting several years ago that if postal facilities were moved out of the Main Street area, a substation would be maintained in that area.

Mrs. Moro told *The Times* that Postmaster Barrett conceded that the promise had been made and that a substation would be located on Main Street.

As for any hope that the postal service would remain at the present location, Mrs. Moro said since the postal service has reached the stage where a contract is about to be awarded "there is little any of us can do" about the move.

The councilwoman told the group that "the important thing for all of us to consider now is the old post office building on North Main Street" which "without a doubt is one of the most beautiful and classically designed buildings in our community."

She said she would explore the option of obtaining the building but that idea has both good and bad points.

"First off," said Mrs. Moro, "it would make a beautiful and very efficient municipal building. It is spacious and certainly in better shape than our present city building. It would be more economical in terms of energy savings to utilize the post office. It will cost our taxpayers $15,000 for heat and utilities alone in this new year for city hall. The building is simply not energy efficient."

The advantages of converting the post office into a municipal building, she said, are that the building would be preserved, that the interior is well suited for working areas for the municipal operation, and that it would be more economical to maintain than the present city building.